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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------129657 171314Z /47
O 171301Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6578
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 09399

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, AO, CG, BE
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR ANGOLANS RE SHABA INCURSION
REF: A) STATE 124814 (NOTAL), B) BRUSSELS 9311

SUMMARY: ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR DE ALMEIDA TOLD AMBASSADOR CHAMBERS HE WILL TRANSMIT IMMEDIATELY TO PRESIDENT NETO U.S. MESSAGE ON INCURSION INTO SHABA AND WILL INFORM US OF REPLY. DE ALMEIDA SAID ANGOLA WAS READY TO HELP U.S. CITIZENS CAUGHT IN SHABA FIGHTING. HE ASKED AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY TO THE SECRETARY ANGOLA'S CONCERN ABOUT IMPLICATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF A POSSIBLE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN SHABA TO RESCUE WESTERN NATIONALS. DE ALMEIDA SAID HE WAS FOLLOWING WITH SYMPATHY CHANGING U.S. AFRICAN POLICY, EXPECTED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES CONFIDENTIAL

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"SOONER OR LATER", AND WOULD LIKE TO USE CONTACT IN BRUSSELS AS CHANNEL TO DISCUSS IMPROVING RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE AMBASSADOR AND POLITICAL OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS CALLED ON ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND E.C., LUIS JOSE DE ALMEIDA, MORNING OF

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MAY 17 AND CONVEYED SECRETARY'S MESSAGE FOR ANGOLANS REGARDING THE CURRENT INCURSION INTO SHABA BY KATANGANS AND LEFT HIM A PIECE OF PAPER BASED ON TALKING POINTS (REFTEL A). DE ALMEIDA READ MESSAGE, SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT IT IMMEDIATELY TO PRESIDENT NETO AND WOULD INFORM US OF ANY REPLY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT FIGHTING IN KATANGA WAS AN "INTERNAL QUESTION FOR ZAIRE" AND THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WAS "NOT INVOLVED" WITH KATANGAN GENDARMES NOR WERE CUBANS ENGAGED IN TRAINING THOSE GENDARMES. HE SAID HE HAD JUST HEARD FROM PRESIDENT NETO THAT THE ANGOLAN BORDER WITH ZAIRE WAS CALM AND THAT THERE WERE NO TROOP MOVEMENTS NEAR OR ACROSS THE BORDER. HE STRESSED THAT ANGOLA SEEKS PEACE WITH ZAIRE AND A STABLE NORTHERN BORDER SINCE ANGOLA HAD A "TERRIBLE ENEMY" ON HER SOUTHERN BORDER.

2. DE ALMEIDA SAID ANGOLA WAS READY TO HELP U.S. CITIZENS CAUGHT IN SHABA FIGHTING AND CITED HOW ANGOLANS HAD HELPED U.S. MISSIONARIES TRANSIT ANGOLA DURING LAST YEAR'S SHABA WAR. HE THEN CITED PRESS REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE MILITARY MOVE TO EVACUATE FOREIGN CITIZENS AND SAID THAT, WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD U.S. CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS, HE ASKED THAT AMBASSADOR CONVEY ANGOLA'S CONCERN ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY MILITARY INTERVENTION IN SHABA
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WHICH"PERHAPS COULD HAVE SOME IMPLICATIONS" FOR ANGOLA.

3. DE ALMEIDA TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO MAKE HER ACQUAINTANCE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. AND SAID THAT HE FOLLOWED WITH SYMPATHY CHANGING U.S. POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA. HE SAID THAT ANGOLA AND THE U.S. WERE COOPERATING IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE AND THAT SOONER OR LATER WE WOULD HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE SAID ANGOLA HAD MANY FRIENDS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS AND RETOLD THE STORY (BRUSSELS 1240 NOTAL) OF BEING IN CONGRESSMAN ANDREW YOUNG'S WASHINGTON OFFICE IN OCTOBER 1975 WHEN SOUTH AFRICANS INVADED ANGOLA. CALLING YOUNG A FRIEND OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE, HE SAID HE WAS SORRY TO HAVE MISSED HIM IN BRUSSELS IN MARCH. PROMISING TO CALL US WHEN HE RECEIVED A REPLY FROM NETO, DE ALMEIDA SAID HE WAS ALWAYS READY TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT BRUSSELS WAS A GOOD CHANNEL TO USE IN IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DE ALMEIDA APPEARED MOST FRIENDLY,

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OUTGOING AND COURTEOUS TO US DURING THE COURSE OF
THE TWENTY MINUTE CONVERSATION, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR
THAT A REPLY WILL BE DEFINITELY FORTHCOMING TO OUR
MESSAGE. IN LIGHT OF WHAT SEEMS TO US TO BE A
CLEARLY POSITIVE REACTION BY KEY ANGOLAN DIPLOMAT

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------129665 171314Z /42
O 171301Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 09399

EXDIS

KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO PRESIDENT NETO, DEPARTMENT
MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING UP WITH ANOTHER MORE
SPECIFIC APPROACH TO DE ALMEIDA SHOULD EVENTS IN
KOLWEZI REQUIRE FAST MOVEMENT. END COMMENT.

5. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ZAIRE DESK OFFICER
(JAENEN) TOLD US MORNING MAY 17 THAT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR
IN LUANDA HAD MET WITH ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE
MAY 16 AND ASKED ABOUT ANGOLAN REACTION TO POSSIBILITY
OF BELGIAN REFUGEES FROM SHABA ENTERING ANGOLA.
BELGIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTED THAT ANGOLAN FOREIGN
MINISTER'S PERSONAL REACTION WAS POSITIVE BUT THAT
JORGE WOULD BE PUTTING QUESTION TO ANGOLAN CABINET
EVENING OF MAY 16. JAENEN SAID HE WAS AWAITING
TELEGRAM CONTAINING FORMAL ANGOLAN REPLY MOMENTARILY
AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM US. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, COMBAT OPERATIONS
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Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR ANGOLANS RE SHABA INCURSION
TAGS: MOPS, AO, CG, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3b2e3e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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